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## **Measha Brueggergosman returns to Opera Atelier for a new production of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito***

Toronto, ON – **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, co-artistic directors of Opera Atelier, announced that acclaimed Canadian soprano **Measha Brueggergosman** will return in the company's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season to sing the role of Vitellia in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*. Ms. Brueggergosman made her triumphant debut with Opera Atelier as Elettra in the 2008 production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. This new production of *La Clemenza di Tito* runs for six performances **April 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, and May 1, 2011** at Toronto's historic Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street). Tickets for *La Clemenza di Tito* are currently available as part of Opera Atelier's 2010/2011 season subscription and may be purchased by calling **416-703-3767 ext. 22**. Single tickets for *La Clemenza di Tito* go on sale November 30, 2010.

Canadian soprano **Measha Brueggergosman** has emerged as one of the most magnificent performers and vibrant personalities of the day. More than 3 billion people witnessed her epic performance at the Opening Ceremonies of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. She has received international acclaim as much for her innate musicianship and voluptuous voice as for her incomparable stage presence. She has performed with many of today's finest international orchestras and most esteemed conductors. In addition to her Dora Award-winning performance as Elettra in Opera Atelier's production of *Idomeneo*, other operatic credits include Madame Lidoine in *The Dialogues of the Carmelites* (Vancouver Opera), Juno in *Aeneas in Karthago* (Staatsoper Stuttgart), Liù in *Turandot* and Sister Rose in *Dead Man Walking* (Cincinnati Opera). An exclusive artist with Deutsche Grammophon, Ms. Brueggergosman's first recording with the label, *Surprise*, garnered the 2008 Juno Award for Classical Album of the Year. *Night and Dreams*, her second solo recording, was released earlier this year.

In Mozart's lifetime, *La Clemenza di Tito* was considered "his most perfect work", enjoying enormous success in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Naples, St. Petersburg, Paris and London. Desperate intrigues, unrequited love and heart stopping reversals of fortune punctuate this thrilling story taken directly from Roman history, in which the Roman aristocrat Vitellia, plots the assassination of Tito, Emperor of Rome. Tito's forgiveness of his enemies catches all off guard, turning the opera's theme into one of clemency and redemption. This sumptuous new production marks the opera's North America premiere on period instruments.

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*La Clemenza di Tito* also stars the extraordinary Croatian tenor **Kresimir Spicer** as Tito, the astonishing American male soprano **Michael Maniaci** in the role of Sesto, **Mireille Asselin** as Servilia, **Mireille Lebel** as Annio, **Curtis Sullivan** as Publio, and **Artists of Atelier Ballet**.

The creative team for *La Clemenza di Tito* includes director **Marshall Pynkoski**, choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, set and costume designer **Gerard Gauci**, and lighting designer **Bonnie Beecher**. **David Fallis** conducts the **Tafelmusik Orchestra**. The production will be sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™.

Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque theatre company, producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Celebrating 25 years under the direction of founders Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

**2010/11 Season Sponsor:** Sun Life Financial

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*Ms. Brueggergosman's appearance generously underwritten by Joan and Jerry Lozinski*